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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kohei ABUKAWA

Appln. No.: 09/821,020

Confirmation No.: 5550

Filed: March 30, 2001

Docket No: Q63680

Group Art Unit: 1775

Examiner: Archene Turner

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For: SILICON NITRIDE MEMBER, METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME,
AND CUTTING TOOL

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the outstanding Office Action dated August 28, 2002, three times extended from November 28, 2002 to February 28, 2003 by the filing of an appropriate Petition and payment for an extension of time submitted herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

1. (Amended) A silicon nitride member comprising a substrate formed by sintering a silicon nitride material, and a hard film comprising a hard component selected from the group consisting of Al_2O_3 , TiCN, TiN and TiC formed on a surface of said substrate, said silicon nitride member characterized in that:

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